



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS ADJUSTS ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA DAILY RETENTION LIMITS

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adjusts the daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit for Atlantic Tunas General, Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat, and HMS Angling category vessels for the 2005 fishing year as described below. *All retention limits are per vessel per day/trip.* This action is being taken to enhance fishing opportunities for all geographic areas and ensure that U.S. BFT harvest is consistent with recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Permit Category	Effective Dates	Areas	BFT Size Class Limit
GENERAL	October 1, 2005, through January 31, 2006, inclusive	All	Two BFT per vessel per day/trip, measuring 73 inches (185 cm) CFL or larger
HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT and HMS ANGLING	October 1, 2005, through May 31, 2006, inclusive	All	One BFT per vessel per day/trip, measuring 47 to less than 73 inches (119 to less than 185 cm) CFL

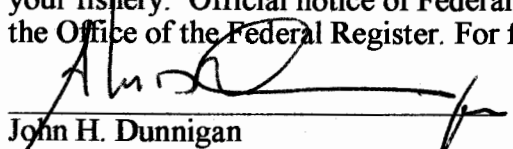
NMFS is prohibiting the retention of school BFT less than 47 inches (119 cm) in the recreational fishery for the remainder of the fishing year to ensure that U.S. BFT harvest is consistent with recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) pursuant to the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA).

Persons aboard a vessel issued an HMS Charter/Headboat permit may retain and land BFT under the daily limits and quotas applicable to the Angling category or the General category. The size category of the first BFT retained on an HMS Charter/Headboat will determine the fishing category applicable to the vessel that day.

In addition to the daily retention limit, the Angling category trophy fishery for large medium and giant BFT (measuring 73 inches or greater) is open in all areas, with a retention limit of one fish per vessel per year. All BFT landed **MUST** be reported within 24 hours of landing to the www.nmfspermits.com website or by calling 888-872-8862 or, if landed in the states of North Carolina or Maryland, to a reporting station prior to offloading. Information can be obtained in North Carolina by calling (800) 338-7804, and in Maryland by calling (410) 213-1531.

NMFS may determine that additional actions are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas. Subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, shall be announced through publication in the Federal Register. In addition, permit holders may visit our website, www.nmfspermits.com or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery permit holders to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information contact Brad McHale, 978-281-9260.


John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

SEP 22 2005
Date

